



# Montgomery County Council

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **COUNCIL APPROVES BILL TO REQUIRE FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS IN NEW SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES**

The Montgomery County Council today gave unanimous approval to legislation that will strengthen fire safety by requiring the installation of fire sprinkler systems in all new detached single-family houses built in the County. The measure was proposed by Councilmember Phil Andrews and co-sponsored by Councilmembers Michael Knapp, Michael Subin, and Tom Perez.

Montgomery County is the largest jurisdiction in the United States to approve such a requirement, which passed the Council during "National Fire Prevention Week."

Current State and County laws require fire sprinkler systems in new multifamily dwellings and town houses. County law also provides a substantial property tax credit for installing sprinklers in older multifamily and town homes, and in all other residential buildings that currently are not required to have sprinklers.

The measure passed today will expand the sprinkler requirement to all new single-family houses. Prince George's County has required sprinklers in all new residential buildings since 1989 and both Rockville and Gaithersburg adopted the requirement last year.

"Sprinklers save lives," said Councilmember Andrews, who championed the measure as chair of the Council's Public Safety Committee. "This law bolsters our efforts to protect life and property against fire."

The measure won support from County firefighters and from the County Executive, to whom the bill now goes for signature into law.

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